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AUSTRALIA

DRUG-TRADE INQUIRY IN AUSTRALIA

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 28 Jul 77 p 4

[Article by Denis Warner in Melbourne]

[Text] A call for a national inquiry into illicit drugs by Mr Fraser, Australian Prime Minister, has won immediate support from most State premiers.

Queensland, Western Australian and Mr Don Dunstan, South Australia's Labour premier, have promised full support for the inquiry.

But Mr Wran, Premier of New South Wales, said the drugs situation in towns such as Griffith and Woolongong was urgent, and he would call his own Royal Commission into drugs. He feared a national inquiry might drag on for years.

Crusader Vanishes

Mr Fraser's call and Mr Wran's decision to open a Royal Commission were prompted by the disappearance on July 15 of Mr Don Mackay, the anti-drug crusader from the New South Wales town of Griffith.

Police are still investigating a concrete foundation slab laid without authority in the town's main street the day after Mr Mackay disappeared.

An anonymous letter, written in Italian and passed to police yesterday, claimed Mr Mackay was still alive and had been taken to Italy. The letter named people in the Griffith area allegedly involved in the drugs racket.

CSO: 5320

BURMA

BURMESE POLICE SEIZE HEROIN IN LOIKAW

Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 5 Aug 77 p 2 BK

[Text] Loikaw, 23 July--Over 10,000 kyat worth of heroin--the biggest quantity ever discovered in this town--was seized in Loikaw last night. Acting on a tip that some heroin packages had arrived at Solatee Teashop at No. 57 Thedar Street in Market Area, Loikaw, a team of policemen composed of Myoma station commander U Hla Tun and others and led by Loikaw township Peoples Police Force commander U Khin Tun, accompanied by ward councillors, searched the teashop at 2030 on 22 August.

They seized a big package of heroin in a plastic bag weighing about .15 viss (1 viss equals 3.6 lb--) and worth over 10,000 kyat. It was hidden under the bed sheet in the bedroom of 26-year old Indian teashop owner Maung Nar Tan. The Loikaw Myoma police station has taken action against the owner of the heroin, Maung Nar Tan, under Section 6 (B) of the Narcotic Drugs Law.

CSO: 5300

INDONESIA

AUSTRALIAN FOUND GUILTY OF HEROIN POSSESSION

Jakarta ANTARA in English 0756 GMT 13 Jul 77 BK

[Text] An Australian, Philips Collins Charles (20), on Monday was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment and fined Rp 250,000 by the Bandung district court.

Charles was charged of being in possession of and selling heroin in Indonesia.

The district court confiscated from the convict as evidence 65 grams of heroin, a small scale, a tape recorder and a notebook containing the price list of heroin, to be damaged. [Sentence as received]

The convict, who was accompanied by his lawyer, Danu Subroto, said he would think over the court decision. Abdulkadir Ruslan presided the court session.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

BRIEFS

ADVERTISING AGAINST DRUG USE--Deputy Law Minister Rais Yatim yesterday called on Malaysian advertisers to participate in the fight against drug abuse in the country. He said the Government believed that cooperation and participation of the private sector was necessary for it to tackle the problem of drug abuse effectively. Advertisers could help by getting public support for worthy campaigns such as this. Encik Rais said this at a luncheon held by the Malaysian Advertisers Association. He also urged advertisers to contribute towards preserving a positive Malaysian outlook on things, especially towards preserving a Malaysian style and way of life. [Excerpt] [Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 30 Jun 77 p 14]

HOSPITAL ASSISTANTS WARNED--The Ministry of Health will not hesitate to dismiss any junior hospital assistant who takes to drugs. Deputy Health Minister Datuk Haji Abu Bakar bin Umar gave the warning at the presentation of certificates to 24 junior hospital assistants at the training school here [Tanjung Rambutan] this morning. He hoped the junior hospital assistants would carry out their duties with dedication and uphold the image of the medical and health services in the country. Their role has become more important because of the threat from drug abuses. He estimated that 150,000 youths in the country had fallen victim to drugs. "Therefore, you will not only be confronted by sick people but also by those who are drug addicts," he said. "As such you have to protect yourselves from drugs and other activities that can affect your future as hospital assistants." [Excerpt] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Jun 77 p 13]

SUSPECTED ADDICTS ARRESTED--Police broke up a pot party at a house in Kampung Periok, off Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, here [Kuala Lumpur] this afternoon and arrested eight suspected drug addicts. One of the suspects, who were all high on drugs, is believed to be a drug pusher. The police later seized five tubes of heroin, four of which were found on one of the suspects. [Excerpt] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Jul 77 p 4 BK]

ARRESTS BY KLANG POLICE--Police arrested a suspected drug trafficker in the courthouse here today. Klang OCPD [Officer in charge, Police Department], Supt Yahaya bin Isa, said the 49-year-old man was attending a drug trial when the arrest was made. Supt Yahaya said the police had been looking for the suspect since a police party led by Probationary Inspector Wong Siew Chun found 394.4 gm of heroin sewn into two cotton pillows at a wooden house in Port Klang on June 13. Police believed the man was responsible for the distribution of a large quantity of drugs in the Port Klang and Klang area. They believe they have crippled a second big drug distribution centre in Port Klang this month. Supt Yahaya said that two detectives ambushed a suspected drug pusher and seized 60 small packets of morphine in Jalan Goh Hock Huat last Saturday. He said the drugs were found in a plastic bag tucked in the man's suspender band. The man was taken to the police station for questioning. So far this year, Klang police had arrested 111 drug pushers and addicts, said Supt Yahaya. Fifty-four were detained in the Port Klang area; 50 in Klang; 4 in Shah Alam; 2 in Pandamaran and 1 in Pulau Ketah. The biggest police success against drug abuse here this year was on June 2 when a police party led by Probationary Inspector Wong seized 571.9 gm of heroin and 295.3 gm of morphine and arrested a suspected drug distributor in Port Klang.

[Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Jul 77 p 4 BK]

SUSPECTED PUSHER ARRESTED--Police arrested a 36-year-old suspected drug pusher and found 60 gm of heroin in a house at Dato Koyah Road here [Penang] on Saturday. Police raided the house at about 1:40 pm. The suspect was found asleep. The heroin was found in seven plastic bags hidden in the attic.

[Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Jul 77 p 4 BK]

CSO: 5300

REPUBLIC OF CHINA

BRIEFS

DEATH SENTENCE FOR DRUGS--Hsu Kai-chin, general manager of the Haichin Navigation Company, and Lin Shiu-teh, a seaman, were Tuesday sentenced to death by the Taipei District Court on charges of smuggling drugs from Thailand to Hong Kong. Another sailor, Hsia Min-li, however, was acquitted. The written judgment indicated that last July, Hsu, 42, and Ko Li-chuan, who was accused in another case, were entrusted by Lin Shao-po at a Bangkok restaurant to ship 93 pounds of boiled opium, 65 pounds of No 3 heroin, 4 pounds of No 4 heroin and five morphine bricks, to Hong Kong for a payment of HK\$100,000. Hsu and Lin then entrusted Hsu Chao-chin, captain of the Taiyoluku Maru which was moored in Bangkok at the time, Kao Hang, the first mate, both accused in another case, and Lin Shiu-teh, 39-year-old second mate of the Maru, to do the job. They hid the drugs in a special room aboard at 1600 hours, 21 July 1976. Hsia, who did not know of the scheme, unwittingly aided its progress. Hong Kong customs officials discovered the smuggling attempt last 11 August. [Text] [Taipei CHINA POST in English 28 Jul 77 p 12]

DEATH, LIFE SENTENCES--Hsu Yin-tsai, a Hong Kong overseas Chinese, was sentenced to death by the Taipei District Court, and his two accomplices, Huang Wen-yuan and Ma Chi-teng, were given life imprisonment terms on charges of drug trafficking. Hsu bought large amounts of drugs from Huang Chen, who is still at large, last December, the written judgment said, and entrusted Ma to sell them last January. Ma informed Huang, who had been accused on drug charges before, of the purchase and the two made the deal at a Taipei restaurant where Huang paid NT\$110,000 to buy the haul. The Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Justice solved the case last 14 May. Another drug addict, Lin Chuan, was given 4 and 1/2 years imprisonment on similar charges. [Text] [Taipei CHINA POST in English 29 Jul 77 p 12]

CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

SINGAPOREANS JAILED IN THE NETHERLANDS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Jun 77 p 9

[Text]

AMSTERDAM, Fri. — Three young women from Singapore who tried to smuggle 2.5 kilograms of heroin into Holland in their corsets last April were each sentenced to 30 months' jail here today.

The heroin, worth about £80,000 on the black market, was found in small compartments sewn inside their corsets.

Police said the three women and a 35-year-old contact kept under surveillance for several weeks were arrested in a hotel here.

The women arrived at Brussels airport from Singapore on April 14. They took a taxi to Rotterdam's Central Station, where they met the contact. Then all four travelled by train to Amsterdam.

The women were named as Ching Yee Kan, 21, Che Nui Wong Tse, 29, and Po Lin Yim, 19.

The contact, named as Kei Chung Ho, was sentenced to four years' jail for organising the smuggling by the three women. — Reuter.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

PROGRESS BEING MADE IN WAR AGAINST DRUGS

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 24 Jun 77 p 6

[Article by Richard Borsuk in Bangkok]

[Text]

NO ONE talks about seeing a light at the end of the tunnel, but the Thai Government's war against drug trafficking seems to be making headway with more executions on the way.

The Government of Thanin Kraivichien, which came to power after the military coup here last Oct. 6, has taken a tough line on trafficking. It has stepped up efforts to seize drugs, to encourage opium growers in the north to switch to other crops and to deter traffickers by imposing severe sentences on those caught.

In Thailand's first execution since the early 1970's an accused trafficker was summarily shot in mid-April under an order issued by Mr Thanin. The Prime Minister, who has sweeping powers to issue such orders under Article 21 of the constitution, said recently that more summary executions of traffickers could "definitely" be expected.

"If we find more narcotics traffickers on a large scale, we'll execute them in the same manner, because we would really like to crack down upon heroin trafficking," Mr Thanin said.

The Prime Minister has promised to stick with the anti-narcotics fight, and certainly Thailand's multi-faceted drug problem is so deep that any Government wanting to make just a dent in it must stick to the fight and use good tactics. The kind of haphazard anti-drugs efforts sometimes made in the past have not helped much if at all.

While some observers have remarked on changes in the narcotics fight since Mr Thanin became Prime Minister, one of the country's top drug-fighters takes a different view.

"The policy hasn't changed," Police Major-General Chavalit Yodmanee, chief of the Police Narcotics Suppression Centre, said in an

interview with Depth-news. "The difference is that before the policy wasn't being announced loudly."

Whether or not the policy is different, the results in the recent past have been encouraging. About 600 kilogrammes of heroin were confiscated during 1976, compared to only 200 kilogrammes in 1975. Drug fighters say that seizures last year including morphine, raw opium and marijuana altogether were five times those of 1975.

Major-General Chavalit said that the United Nations sponsored pilot programmes in North Thailand and Burma to get hill tribes to grow coffee, tobacco and other crops instead of opium were showing good results.

"It is no problem to convince the hill tribesmen to change crops as these others can bring better market prices these days," he said. "The biggest problems are

providing adequate transportation, marketing and storage facilities for the substitute crops."

Even if crop replacement schemes succeed beyond all expectations — and some observers take a much less optimistic view of the results — these are only pilot schemes and as such do make only a dent in the problem, and a temporary one at that. Maj. Gen. Chavalit estimated that it would take US\$200 million to US\$300 million to expand the schemes sizeably, and it isn't clear where the funds could come from.

The Government is achieving some success in discouraging trafficking, observers say, and fewer people are dealing at the present. Maj. Gen. Chavalit said that as a result the wholesale price of No. 4 heroin had dropped from 80,000 baht (US\$4,000) per .700 grammes to 50,000 baht (US\$2,500) in the past six months. A joint of opium (1.6 kilos) had dropped

from 3,000 baht (US\$150) to 1,200 baht (US\$60), he added.

Despite the drop in wholesale prices, street prices in Bangkok, Europe and the United States haven't been coming down, so for the trafficker in Thailand willing to take the risks the profits are greater than ever.

One of the toughest problems of the Thanin Government to tackle is cooperation and connivance between traffickers and officials. In a speech to a joint U.S.-Thai drug conference here in mid-April, Mr Thanin noted that his country's fight against trafficking was hampered by "undue influence from some quarters and bribery."

Mr Thanin has repeatedly announced his intention to act firmly against corruption at all levels, but rooting out graft is of course easier said than done. The outcome of Thailand's anti-narcotics drive may be

determined in part by the degree of success in halting official complicity in trafficking.

"In the drug fight we're behind all the time, but we're trying harder to catch up," Maj. Gen. Chavalit said.

Thailand has been something less than a democracy since Oct. 6 and it has already killed off one accused trafficker without trial.

Asked if he thought the Prime Minister should keep using his sweeping powers, Maj. Gen. Chavalit said the use of Article 21 in the drug fight was "very good, we like it."

Undoubtedly the general public approves of it too. It is with the general public that Thailand has yet another drug battle to fight, one it must fight on its own. Mr Thanin has estimated that as high as one per cent of Thailand's 40 million people are drug addicts.

— Depthnews.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

SUBSTITUTE CROPS COMBAT OPIUM POPPIES

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 22 Jun 77 p 7

[Article by Thomas Land]

[Text]

PETER Boustead, an agro-economist attached to the Tropical products Institute here, has been posted to Thailand for two years to help in the establishment of a marketing system for alternative crops to the opium poppy grown in the northern hill-tribe regions of that country.

He is one of several West European and North American specialists to be stationed in Thailand recently in a global effort to stop the westward flow of heroin at source. The reason: An elusive and highly efficient network of Chinese traffickers replacing the notorious French Connection has recently flooded Western Europe with heroin-3 or "brown sugar". This is creating a serious and potentially disastrous problem.

Many experts fear that the network may soon be extended to the United States and Canada to fill a vacuum about to be created there through the severing of the existing clandestine

supply routes from Central and South America.

The so-called Golden Triangle region — which takes in Thailand, Burma and Laos — produces an estimated 500 to 600 tons of opium a year, a large part of which is locally consumed. The remainder is refined and smuggled out in an increasingly dangerous and profitable operation involving nationalist as well as Communist insurgents, convoys of bandits, feudal warlords, fleets of fishermen and sophisticated crime syndicates.

One of the major trading and supply centres of this gigantic business is the Thai capital of Bangkok where Britain, Canada, Australia and Holland have recently attached narcotics specialists to their embassies. The French, the West Germans and Swedes are about to follow suit. A unit of the American drug enforcement agency has been operating in Bangkok for some years.

The British agro-econ-

omist said before his departure for Thailand that the crop substitution scheme, mounted under the international supervision of the United Nations Programme for Drug control, may well benefit immensely from the currently high price of coffee — a new crop which was only introduced in the area three years ago.

Investigations

Other alternative crops now being introduced in Thailand include tobacco and various fruits and vegetables such as kidney beans, medical herbs and essential oils.

Boustead's work will involve marketing investigations while his colleagues are engaged in agricultural and social research to select a variety of other suitable crops for the local farmers to plant instead of opium poppy.

The Tropical Products Institute, a scientific unit of Britain's Ministry of Overseas De-

velopment, is recognised as an eminent world centre for the study of tropical and sub-tropical agriculture. Many other distinguished scientific research establishments are likely to be drawn into the crop substitution project.

Considerable assistance is expected from the Nordic countries of Europe which have just decided to make a joint contribution to the scheme. The increase of drug abuse throughout the wealthy regions of the continent has made a violent impact on Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and even Iceland — where the total number of "potent" drug addicts now exceeds 10,000, in a population of 220,000, according to police estimates.

Mrs Irma Toivaa, the Finnish Minister of Health and Social Affairs, recently persuaded the Nordic Council in Helsinki that the most effective means of combating drug abuse was to go to its source in

a joint programme to prevent production.

Knut Frydenlund, the Norwegian Minister of Social Affairs, told the Storting (the Norwegian Parliament) afterwards that the Nordic countries had agreed to use development aid funds to support economic and social efforts for crop substitution in Thailand and elsewhere in Asia.

Recipients

"Such a joint Nordic initiative will undoubtedly mean a considerable strengthening of the activities of the UN Drug Abuse Fund and could lead to other countries increasing their contributions and to new countries joining in the effort," he said.

"This would then be the beginning of an increased and coordinated international effort in

the fight against drug abuse ... at the same time, farmers in the areas where production is substituted should be secured legally and economically, which is likely to increase food production. A better use of development funds could hardly be found."

The UN fund originated with the Nixon administration. The United States decided to create an international vehicle for distributing aid finance for drug abuse control in countries which, for political reasons, did not wish to be seen as recipients of American assistance.

During its first four years of existence, the fund received US\$15 million from the United States, \$608,000 from Canada, \$355,000 from Britain and small token donations from other countries.

But the fund, which operates in many opium-growing regions with some success, needs more cash or some of its current projects may have to be abandoned. The Thailand project, for example, could run out of funds this year.

The first crop of coffee under the UN scheme in Thailand has just been harvested and proved to be an unqualified financial success. The pilot project yielded only about 10 tons but, acre for acre, it produced a far better return than opium poppy (which earns only about US\$400 a year for the average grower, just enough to cover the cost of rice and other essentials). The coffee project is thus likely to be extended on a vast scale.

Opium poppy cultivation is banned throughout Thailand, authorities fear that strict enforcement of the law in the hilly regions of the north would alienate the growers unless they were offered suitable and acceptable alternative crops. The administration of Prime Minister Thanin Kraivichien, which seized power in a military coup last October, is particularly

sensitive to popular loyalties there because communist insurgents are fighting for control of the area.

Thailand recently accused communist guerillas of trafficking in drugs and announced that a communist-run heroin factory had been captured. It was "vitally important" for the countries in the region to mount an effective campaign "to eliminate this menace which could kill just as surely as bullets," an official communique said.

Execution

The Prime Minister recently took personal charge over the reorganised National Narcotics Control Board. He ordered various Burmese tribes in the frontier regions either to quit the opium trade or to leave the country.

A recent visit by a United States Congressional delegation, led by Lester Wolff, coincided with the execution, without trial, of an alleged drug merchant.

Yet Western diplomats are only cautiously optimistic over the success of the crop substitution scheme. They fear not so much that the Prime Minister may lose enthusiasm for the scheme but that the army, the real power in the country, may lose patience with the Prime Minister as well as his policies.

Diplomatic observers point to increasing dissatisfaction among the generals who put the Prime Minister in office, giving him extraordinary powers under a new constitution. The army is said to be bedevilled by rumours of coups and counter-coups, throwing the entire international project into doubt.

So the crop substitution scheme, despite all its initial success, is still far from acquiring its own momentum of expansion. A change of regime in Thailand at this early stage of the project might still halt and postpone it, perhaps indefinitely. — FT Feature.

BRAZIL

MINOR ARRESTED AS LEADER OF COCAINE TRAFFICKING RING

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 14 Jul 77 p 16

[Text] Yesterday the police arrested a minor, W. S., 16, leader of a ring of cocaine traffickers that operated on Faz Quem Quer hill. According to police, about 1,000 packets of the drug, worth 2 million cruzeiros, were found in his possession. It was also announced that the minor had nearly 300,000 cruzeiros in a savings account opened by his father, Aurelio Goncalves dos Santos.

Breakup of the gang began 15 days ago, when agents of the 9th BPM [expansion unknown] and of the 29th DP [Police Department] arrested six women who were distributing the cocaine packets. Yesterday, in a joint operation, 30 policemen arrested 10 more distributors and the leader of the gang, who was sleeping in his shanty, where he lives with his parents and nine brothers and sisters. Two .38-cal Taurus revolvers and a 7.65 pistol were also seized there.

The Scheme

In the statement he gave the commander of the 9th BPM, Col Hamilcar Silva Fernandes, the minor said that on alternate days he met a white man (he refused to identify him) at a certain stretch of Avenida do Otaviano, who would give him a shopping bag containing varying quantities of cocaine. He always went to these meetings alone, where a beige Volkswagen was already waiting for him. Inside the car, W. S. accounted for the merchandise received and settled his commissions. The sale of cocaine was conducted at 15 outlets on the hill, so as not to cause a crowd of customers that could arouse the attention of the police. At each of these outlets W. S. placed a distributor (known as a "vaposeiro"). The system functioned successfully until the six women were arrested.

W. S. was taken to a station of the FUNABEM [National Child Welfare Foundation], but the distributors, Jose Carlos de Assis Alves, Antonio Soares da Silva, Alvaro dos Santos, Carlos Alberto Conceicao, Marcos Antonio da Silva, Paulo Sergio Costa Pereira, Jorge Azevedo Tiago, Silvio Alberto da Silva, Ronildo Fernandes da Silva and Honorio Souza Alves, were detained at the 29th DP.

The Choice

The minor, W. S., never engaged in robbery or assault. According to what he said, he chose this "business" because through it he could provide all possible comfort to his family, which had always led a miserable life. In their shanty there were two color television sets, a refrigerator, tape-player, sound recorder, radiophonograph with speaker, modern upholstered furniture and his savings account book, in the amount of 300,000 cruzeiros. All this was possible with the money he made selling cocaine.

According to his interrogators, the minor showed much intelligence and liveliness in the depositions, responding to questions with precision. When they asked him to identify the man from whom he received the packets, W. S. quickly changed the subject, eventually saying that he would not betray him, since "within the bounds of dishonesty there should also be honesty." He said that his family never inquired about the source of the money. His father administered his receipts, always demanding more. The minor gave him part of the money and spent the rest on clothes and women.

W. S. has been arrested twice before. At the age of 14, he was arrested in Madureira for carrying a weapon and taken to the Juvenile Court, from which he was released 2 days later in his father's custody. A month ago he was arrested again on the slope of Faz Quem Quer hill, with four packets of cocaine. Taken to a FUNABEM school in Quintino, he escaped a week later through a ditch running to Lemos Brito street.



White man relied on cocaine ring for amount of 2 million cruzeiros

BRAZIL

ELUSIVE TRAFFICKER ARRESTED; MARIHUANA, 'LIPOTIASE' FOUND

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 12 Jul 77 p 20

[Text] Detectives Adail and "Ze do Caixao," both of the Homicide Squad, yesterday arrested the famous narcotics trafficker and automobile-accessory thief, Jose Carlos Correa da Silva, 22, better known in the Federal District drug world and in police circles by the nickname "Carlao." At his home the police found more than half a kilogram of "processed" marihuana and three boxes of narcotics call "Lipotiasse," each one containing 24 pills.

"Carlao" is responsible for more than 20 police charges initiated against him by the 12th Police Station, of Taguatinga, as subject to the penalties of Article 155 of the Penal Code. Beyond this, he has been booked several times in the Drugs and Narcotics Station of the Regional Federal Police of Brasilia and was also indicted by that bureau in two trials based on Article 281.

Despite being well known by the Brasilia police, "Carlao" has been carrying on a lively narcotics traffic, mainly in the satellite city of Taguatinga, and in this way supplies the north zone of that locality, selling marihuana and other hallucinogenic products to dozens of addicts.

Preventive Detention

For some time now, the famous trafficker "Carlao," who lives at the rear of QE 19, Block D, House 20 in Taguatinga, has been sought by police on the basis of two orders of preventive detention that had been issued by Judges Jose Augusto de Figueiredo Branco of the 3rd Criminal Jurisdiction and Romeu Barbosa Jobim of the 2d Criminal Jurisdiction, respectively.

Even so, due to the many friendships of the thief and trafficker in the underworld of crime, he always managed to escape from the clutches of the police and hide in an indeterminate place. Yesterday, however, through execution of the order for preventive detention, the detectives Adail and "Ze do Caixao" found the stolen goods in Carlao's residence and later managed to arrest him near the Cemab School in Taguatinga.

The criminal did not offer any resistance because he knew the reputation of Adail ("the rod that doesn't bend"), since about a year ago he had been arrested by that Homicide Squad detective and eventually confessed thefts of tape recorders, which forced him to sign at one time 16 police charges. He was then taken to the Drug and Narcotics Bureau, where he was also indicted.

Yesterday, after completing the usual formalities, the trafficker was taken to the Custody Center prison, due to the two orders for preventive detention issued by Criminal Justice.

Investigation

The police suspect that Jose Carlos Correa is connected with traffickers in other states, and investigations for the purpose of verifying his involvement with other criminals are proceeding at an accelerated rate.

Meanwhile, in reference to the thefts of tape players, one of "Carlao's" major "specialties," the police already are on the trail of various receivers of stolen goods, some already identified. It is thought that the prisoner dispersed dozens of tape players and other automobile accessories in the Taguatinga market. Within a few hours, according to all indications, the "crooks" of that satellite city should receive an intensive "visit" from several detectives. The goods found in the residence of "Carlao," more than half a kilogram of "gerere" [marijuana], were seized in his automobile and taken to the Drug and Narcotics Bureau. The marijuana was divided: about 80 percent was found in a Super Nescau can and in a plastic sack. The remainder of the "grass" was all ready to be sold to the addicts.





The "gerere" and narcotics found at the home of the trafficker "Carlao."

8834
CSO: 5300

CHILE

EDITORIAL PRAISES GOVERNMENT'S STRUGGLE AGAINST DRUGS

Santiago EL CRONISTA in Spanish 22 Jul 77 p 7

[Text] One of the causes of greatest concern in the world today is the surprising increase in the use of drugs and narcotics by ever-larger numbers of young people. It would seem that this unhappy situation is developing in proportion to the rise of the consumer society, especially in the most highly developed countries.

The battle against drug use has been carried out by each country on very different levels, with both educational programs and programs aimed at stamping out drug traffic, failing in spite of their high cost, to provide a solution to the problem. It is nevertheless in the area of police action that the fight takes on greater intensity and drama, specifically because it tends to destroy the far-flung, complicated and clandestine world drug-distribution network. These organizations have attained such range and economic power that they are assuming the proportions of international corporations; corporations which, hiding behind business fronts, constantly increase their investments in seemingly legitimate ventures which nevertheless benefit in some way from the capital generated by this vile trade.

The financial power of such organizations permits them to challenge the police with great mobility and influence, as is evident from the capacity for bribery which has been demonstrated in powerful western countries.

Police world-wide have given the drug problem highest priority, and as a result hold regular meetings to examine the progress that has been made, to plan followup action, and to exchange information on scientific and technical advances in order to [be able to] detect and halt the clandestine distribution of traditional alkaloids and those substances which, although they appear inoffensive, are used by ill-informed young people as an initial stimulant and which hold the danger of becoming a first step toward more refined drugs.

The fact that Chile has been designated as host country for the Regional World Conference on Drugs is without doubt recognition of the effectiveness

of Chilean police action in controlling drug traffic. So effective has this action become that in certain instances it has pointed the way for other nations seriously concerned about this very severe world problem. This conference, to be held in Santiago between the 25th and the 30th of this month, will bring experts and special police together for a broad in-depth analysis of the world-wide fight against this scourge.

It is worth remembering that Chile lived through dark moments during the Popular Unity regime, when [the Marxists], using characteristic methods, converted drug traffic into a rich source of income to finance proselytizing activities and the acquisition of arms for subversion throughout Latin America. Add to this the importance which communism gives in its political fight to drugs as instruments of psychological persuasion and for the destruction of public morality.

A result of this scandalous use of vice--in which even police chiefs in the former government participated--was the involvement of youth, not only in drug use but also in other vices and delinquent behavior.

In the brief period of 4 years, that dark cloud which threatened the dignity and future of our young people has disappeared. The best demonstration of the success achieved in this delicate area by the Department of Armed Forces and Police lies in the fact that our country has been chosen as the site of the Regional World Conference on Drugs, which amounts to an international recognition.

9077
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

LEONIDAS LONDONO: LEGALIZE MARIHUANA FOR EXPORT

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Aug 77 p 2-A

[Text] Bogota, 7 Aug--Legalization of the cultivation and exporting of marihuana to strengthen the national economy was proposed here today by a prominent Colombian coffee man.

According to statements made to radio statio "Caracol" by the well-known leader Leonidas Londono, who has just returned from the United States, the great majority of Americans are in favor of the legalization of the consumption of this drug, according to recent surveys.

"Therefore," he said, "the suggestion that I am making here about legalizing the cultivation of marihuana is reasonable."

He added that, along with this legalization, consumption of the drug in Colombia should be prohibited, which is [he said,] "comparable to the similar standards that the American authorities apply to certain fertilizers, fungicides, drugs, weapons, etc. whose use and consumption are prohibited on the internal market but which, however, are exported."

Londono also pointed out the "excellent quality" of Colombian marihuana and expressed the need for this product to be exported.

"From the income from its sale," he assured, "there could be financed development programs in this country, and adequate plans to keep the Colombian youth from consuming it."

CSO: 3010

MEXICO

CHARGES AGAINST CORRUPT AUTHORITIES

Release of an Important Drug Trafficker

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 19 Jul 77 p 3-B

[Text] Although he is known as an important drug trafficker, yesterday morning, Alejo Sierra Gomez, the third district court judge, ordered that Homero Flores Lopez be released. The judge said, "The defendant is insane."

The director's office of the Nuevo Laredo Rehabilitation Center received an official order signed by the judge. It was an order for the immediate release of the defendant Homero Flores Lopez. His punishment is just "house arrest" and he must put up 10,000 pesos bail. Judicial circles described this judgment as "ridiculous".

The judge's order was immediately carried out.

At the court, it was reported that the Health Center director and a private doctor issued an official medical certificate stating that Flores Lopez is insane.

The FJP[Federal Judicial Police] captured Flores Lopez after American authorities in Laredo, Texas, arrested several persons transporting more than 1 ton of marihuana in a light truck.

During interrogation, the men declared that Homero Flores Lopez had sold the drug to them.

After Homero Flores was arrested, he named his accomplices Pablo Vazquez Flores, alias "El Coreano", Nicolas Juarez Rodriguez and Jose Luis Mata Pedraza.

During the investigation of the activities of Homero Flores and his accomplices, the FJP agents gathered proof of his guilt. The defendants told them that for a long time they had engaged in illicit trafficking and smuggling of drugs.

Sharp Criticism of a Judge

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 20 Jul 77 p 3-B

[Text] Yesterday in political and judicial circles, bitter and contradictory comments circulated insistently concerning Alejo Sierra Gomez, third district judge. They protested the order for the release of drug trafficker Homero Flores Lopez because he was considered insane.

Homero Flores Lopez is one of the main marihuana suppliers to the American drug black market. The FJP[Federal Judicial Police] captured him after the arrest in the United States of several persons who were transporting more than 1 ton of marihuana. He was released at the order of the third district court judge.

Official spokesmen of that court informed EL MANANA that the drug trafficker's defense attorney "proved" with a medical certificate issued by the Public Health Center that Homero Flores Lopez is insane.

On the basis of that certificate, Sierra Gomez ordered Homero Flores' immediate release. He was just punished with house arrest and required to post 10,000 pesos bail.

Official circles insisted that large amounts of money were distributed "so that the judgment would favor the defendant."

Jaime Eugenio Torres Espinosa, the federal prosecuting attorney, told EL MANANA that he was not satisfied with the judgment and that by legal procedures he will struggle to have the defendant returned to jail.

Torres Espinosa said, "Homero Flores will be kept under surveillance to prove at the opportune time whether or not he is insane. If he is not, he will be arrested immediately."

Finally, he added, "Verification is being made that Flores Lopez complies with the house arrest and at a future date another medical opinion will be requested to determine if he has recovered from his alleged insanity. The continuation of proceedings against him will be requested."

8923
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

PROTESTS AGAINST THE INFAMY OF AUTHORITIES

Accusations by the Prosecuting Attorney

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 20 Jul 77 pp 1-2

[An interview with the agent of the federal public prosecutor's office by Antonio Lamas, a DIARIO reporter]

[Text] Yesterday during an interview with EL DIARIO DE NOGALES on the sensational Mendivil Lucero case, the agent in this city of the federal public prosecutor's office, gave additional information on what he described as "the bad verdict by the second district court judge in the Mendivil Lucero case." He said,

"By reading the resolutions in which the district court judge explained the order for the release of Jose Gabriel Mendivil Lucero, the deputy chief of the municipal police, one sees that he failed to do his duty when he analyzed certain statements made to the military police, he falsified statements made by the defendants and did not analyze the defendants' declarations."

He also said, "To justify Mendivil, he was forced to release the two former agents who admitted to the crimes committed by Mendivil and Octavio Ordaz Rivero."

VAMO

He added, "Mendivil's defense attorneys, Evaristo Jimenez and German Lopez Romano, had the following points favoring them: The former was the person who some days ago brought Mendivil before the court to testify against the federal public prosecutor's office and in support of Gustavo Perez Abreu, alias "El Nene Abreu". The second is the "legal consultant" of the city government and is the mayor's son-in-law. Hours before the verdict was given, the mayor visited the judge twice last Monday morning. The judge returned his visits by going during the afternoon to city hall."

He also said, "We have not lost faith in justice. We trust that the magistrate of the fifth circuit unitary tribunal in Hermosillo will hear the appeal against this absurd, dishonest decision and will order the rearrest and imprisonment of Mendivil and the former agents."

He said, "I have many years in this work and I know my duty as a modest official of the federal government. I am not discouraged. To the contrary, I will continue combating drug trafficking more vigorously because I must do so to protect the interests of society."

Finally, he said, "Again I confirm that in Nogales, the 'family' is very powerful."

Before leaving, Mireles Malpica explained the meaning of "family" in the jargon of those who practice and persecute the illicit.

Statements Protesting Against Conduct of Authorities

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 20 Jul 77 p 2

[Article by A. Rojas]

[Text] During visits yesterday to several sectors of the community the EL DIARIO reporters learned of the indignation of all Nogales public circles due to the acquittal by the district court judge of Jose Gabriel Mendivil Lucero and his reinstatement yesterday as deputy chief of the municipal police by Mayor Hector Monroy Rivera.

Most families considered the verdict and the reinstatement a travesty of justice and contrary to the law. Several citizens said that the mayor had "no need to make into an indispensable collaborator of his administration a person who as a former officer was known to be corrupt and is still subject to the appeal of his case by federal authorities." They added,

"Evidently Monroy Rivera is acting under pressure from a very influential person because he chose to outrage the public who knows HOW INNOCENT Mendivil Lucero is, rather than dismiss him. Monroy Rivera should have appointed to the position an honest man who would really serve the public and not join the throng of lawbreakers who impoverish, humiliate and shame them."

Why Does He Want To Be Deputy Chief?

City businessmen told this reporter, "It is brazen to keep a deputy chief of police when robberies, holdups and rapes are the order of the day. Mendivil Lucero's involvement in "arrangements" with thieves and crooked buyers has been confirmed. Besides, the citizens make other charges which are public knowledge. They cannot be deceived by the verdict of all those rotten authorities, without excluding those responsible for imparting justice."

Anastasio Robles Paez said, "If a deputy chief is needed, he must be a capable, honest man who knows the people but not a hack who brings a recommendation. It is general knowledge that Mendivil Lucero does nothing at police headquarters except waste time by going from one office to another and interviewing hoodlums."

Finally, Robles Paez said, "We believe, the same as the people who live in Lomas de Fatima do, that Nogales has been given another slap by the same authorities. Monroy Rivera should reconsider this unless he has his hands tied and does not want to act. The following sometimes happens: higher officials make recommendations. Since one has political ambitions, he has no choice but to obey."

Request for a Police Headquarters Audit.

By telephone calls, messages and during visits by this reporter, several families expressed their indignation and requested that an audit be made at police headquarters covering from the time Mendivil Lucero took over the post of deputy chief. They want the public to be told of the work done and the number of cases of robberies, crimes, rapes and holdups which have been solved.

They said, "By doing so, Mendivil Lucero could reveal something that would extenuate the serious charges which the entire public makes against him. The people are the highest judge, not a judge subject to political manipulations."

Among the people who spoke were Ezequiel Mares, Antonia de Elias, Ernesto Cabralera, Miss Marcia Lopez Rabado and Miss Ernestina Cota.

Protest Signed by 350 Persons

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 21 Jul 77 p 2

[Article by A. Rojas]

[Text] The people of Nogales face the prospect of having Jose Gabriel Mendivil Lucero continue as deputy chief of police. He was accused of acquiring, possessing and trafficking drugs. In the absence of sufficient proof and in compliance with the law, the district court judge ordered that he be released. Various sectors of the city have joined in condemning Mendivil Lucero's reinstatement by Mayor Hector Monroy Rivera. In the following communication concerning these sensational and incredible events, more than 350 citizens of this city have chosen this spokesman to make known their impressions that he does not honor or deserve this position.

The following communication was received yesterday from these citizens:

Rafael Orduno R., director general of DIARIO DE NOGALES, City:

The people of Nogales were stunned by the maneuvers used to clear completely and to reinstate Gabriel Mendivil Lucero to the post of deputy chief of police. He appears as an "innocent dove" after the judge decreed absence of a "solid basis" for proceeding in spite of the impressive evidence presented by the federal prosecuting attorney and that ALL THE PEOPLE of Nogales have witnessed at one time or another that which is "the main business in which Mendivil Lucero is engaged."

For months, we the signers who live in the Calle Buenos Aires neighborhood have observed Mendivil Lucero's activities as "well as we know what color is green". We are near the smugglers and the traffickers. Each day, we see who and how they engage in this and who help them. Instead of making a frontal attack on the problems which overburden our families and all the families of the world, we see which recognized police force "authorities" sell themselves, ask to join these dark activities and betray the people who pay their salaries so that they will provide security and the guarantees they deserve.

Is there any resident of Nogales who does not know that Mendivil Lucero is linked with all the powerful drug traffickers? No! We believe that the district court judge only recognizes "hair that grows on the hand" or "marijuana between fingers" or "wool [money], the product of sacks of drugs". Only on the basis of this kind of evidence would he issue an order of imprisonment.

Do those who scorn public opinion think that they can cover the sun with a finger? When Mendivil Lucero and his accomplices in police headquarters are confronted, what do they say about the robberies, the holdups, the scandals, the denial of security and guarantees to the residents and businessmen? To whom do they account for "what they pocketed" during this year which, to the sorrow of our frontier, they have been robbing prodigally and perhaps SHARING with those who support them.

Mr Editor, Nogales deserves a better fate and we send this letter for publication, if you dare to publish it, because we are drowning in so much indecency. However, we affirm our trust that the prosecuting attorney will one day "return to this frontier" and with his great influence, intervene "up there", the only place from where orders may emanate to put an end to this infamy, brazenness and so much disorder where mayors are screens and "levers" who commit so many crimes[TANTO DESMADRE]. Cordially, Signed by 60 business firms and 350 protesters.

8923
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

RUMORS HEARD IN COURTHOUSE CIRCLES

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 15 Jul 77 p 3-B

[Siguiendo Pistas [Following Leads] column by Carlos D. Pacheco]

[Excerpt] Beginning Next Monday, Many Traffickers Will Learn Their Fate.

Luis Garcia Romero, the second district court judge, will return this Saturday to his duties after taking his normal vacation and 15 days extra authorized by the Supreme Court of Justice. Chemita de Leon said that numerous cases are ready for judgments. Official sources said that many years of imprisonment will be handed down...We shall see, said the blind man.

The Good Old Days Are Over...No More Drug...

When Salvador del Toro Rosales, "The Iron Fisted Prosecuting Attorney", served as agency coordinator of the federal public prosecutor's office, one was not surprised to see the federal judicial police offices jammed with persons involved in illicit drug matters. Now, one is surprised if a single person is under arrest or a small amount of drug is seized. Are there no more of them or what...?

Drug Addicts Remain Imprisoned; Distributors Are Released.

The attorney general's office announced officially that all drug addicts who were arrested with small amounts of drugs in their possession would be released because they would be favored by the abandonment of penal action. However, many persons have been released recently but of these--isn't this so?--most are drug suppliers, not addicts. One of the recent cases is that of "La Borrada Kuri" who had in his possession enough marihuana for 20 reefers and 8 doses of heroin...How could these be taken to be for his own use...?

8923
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

OPERATION CONDOR PROGRAM AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING

Preparations for Struggle Against Trafficking

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 10 Jul 77 p 3-A

[Text] The arrest of several persons were expected from the renewal of the Operation Condor programs. They are aimed at reducing drug trafficking by gangs using our frontier as the springboard for their illicit activities. The struggle against drug trafficking must not give quarter and must be with the collaboration of the diverse dependencies in the locality.

EL DIARIO received official information that necessary preparations are being made to obtain the best results in this battle. Antonio Macias Guevara and Carlos Zermenos are the federal officers coordinating the activities. Both have sufficient experience to succeed in the hard fought struggle which they will make against those who handle drug trafficking.

During an interview at the public prosecutor's private office, Macias Guevara, the FJP[Federal Judicial Police] officer, said, "We will go after the leaders." Before starting the programmed activities against drug trafficking, a broad reconnaissance of the region will be made.

Although without confirmation, the aforementioned operations at our frontier may have been increased. Payments to drug traffickers are sometimes in dollars; at other times weapons are given in exchange for drugs. The weapons are then smuggled into Mexico by the same means used to take out the marihuana--by air--from the interior of the nation to this or other frontiers.

Immediate results are expected from the investigations being made to discourage the drug gangs. In the past, the authorities were satisfied with arresting addicts and couriers without reaching the leaders to break up the gangs of criminals who poisoned our youths. Now their crimes are even worse since they have broadened their field of action to include children.

Operations About To Begin

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 14 Jul 77 p 2-A

[Text] Carlos Xavier Elizondo Salinas, the agent of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, during an interview, informed EL DIARIO "Operation Condor" activities were ready to begin.

He added that as soon as the approval by higher authorities is received, he will begin the activities aimed at breaking up drug trafficking in our region and at this frontier which is being used as the springboard for illicit activities.

At the end, he stressed that an intense reconnaissance of the area is being made.

Drug Traffickers' Operations Center Located

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 16 Jul 77 p 3-A

[Text] Carlos Xavier Elizondo Salinas, the agent of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office and Antonio Macias Guevara, the FJP [Federal Judicial Police] chief, told EL DIARIO after "Operation Condor" is completed in this region, special attention will be given to Ciudad Acuna, Coahuila.

Both spoke of numberless complaints against persons brazenly "moving" the drug traffic in that frontier port. The activity has increased because FJP vigilance there is practically minimal. However, they are confident that drug trafficking will receive serious setbacks.

They said that their actions would be strictly in accordance with the law and that immediate action would be taken against persons found with drugs in their possession. We learned unofficially that the red-light district in Ciudad Acuna, Coahuila, is suitable and free for drug distribution.

Generally, the drugs are sold by the dose to persons, apparently tourists. Sometimes, larger amounts are sold. The drug traffickers are assumed to be dealing primarily in "powder". They pointed out, however, that their information is worthless unless proof of the crimes are gathered and the leaders in that frontier port of the drug trafficking are arrested.

8923
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

BREAK UP OF A GANG OF COCAINE TRAFFICKERS

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 23 Jul 77 p 3-B

[Text] Although most of the members of the gang of cocaine distributors which was recently broken up by the FJP[federal judicial police] have been arrested, the FJP agents continued yesterday to make investigations for the capture of the main leaders and contacts who opportunely succeeded in escaping.

Rodolfo Lopez Herrera, the chief of the FJP group reported this. He also said that he has some very good information as to some of the places where Jose Contreras O. evidently hides.

When FJP agents arrived at his home at 1705 Washington, he had fled.

Lopez Herrera said that other persons whose links with the nine drug traffickers under arrest are fully established will be arrested.

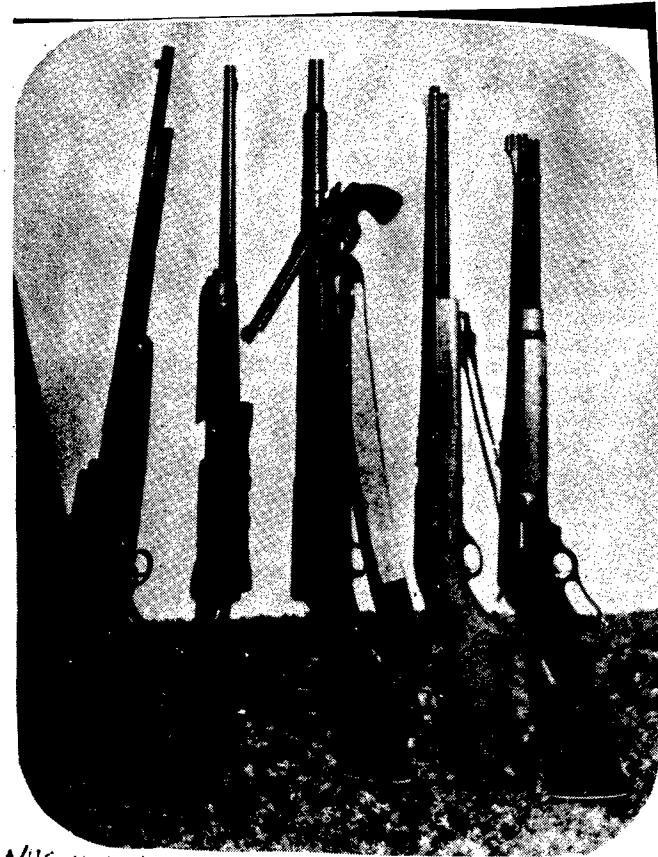
He also said that Joaquin Luna Flores, Jose Luis Ayala Lozano and Ramiro Guerra Barrera, after being transferred from Monterrey to this city, were thoroughly investigated and very valuable information was obtained.

The federal public prosecutor's office has already begun to prepare the case on the basis of preliminary penal investigations of the events under discussion and opportunely will remand the case to the state district court in sessions.

Lopez Herrera added that from the three men arrested in Monterrey five rifles with the following calibers were seized: .22, 30-06, 12, 30-30, and also a .38 cal special revolver.



Joaquin Luna Flores. He had in his home 3 ounces of cocaine, part of a lot he had sold to an inhabitant of Nuevo Laredo. (Foto Gutierrez). Jose Luis Ayala Lozano. He is another member of the gang of traffickers remanded to the District Court in sessions. (Foto Gutierrez). Ramiro Guerrera Barrera. He was transferred from Monterrey to this city because he is involved in cocaine smuggling. (Foto Gutierrez).



The three drug traffickers captured in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, had these six firearms of various calibers in their possession. They will also be remanded to the district court. (Foto Gutierrez).

8923
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

HEROIN TRAFFICKERS ON TRIAL

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 16 Jul 77 p 3-B

[Text] Yesterday in the second district court, presumed drug trafficker Alvaro Saldana Barrera made childishly absurd declarations concerning the charges of a crime against public health made against him by the agent of the federal public prosecutor's office. In the same court, another defendant in the same case, Saturnino Hernandez Arredondo, was released.

The FJP[federal judicial police] some days ago captured Saldana Barrera after they were informed that American "contacts" were going to make a transaction with Saturnino Hernandez. He was to sell them first 1 kg of heroin and later 4 kgs more.

A surveillance was set up in Miguel Aleman but when the agents intervened they only arrested Saturnino Hernandez because, according to the police report, the American buyers "fled" to the United States.

During interrogation, Saturnino confessed that he was going to sell heroin but he had not received it so he was only making the agreement for an operation with Alvaro Saldana Barrera.

The latter was arrested in his home. He said that the 1/2 gram of heroin found there was a sample of the heroin he was going to receive.

In spite of the evidence collected by the FJP, the agent of the federal public prosecutor's office did not consider the evidence sufficient to remand him also.

Only Saldana Barrera was remanded. Yesterday, when he made his preparatory statement he boasted that he had been properly counseled so he completely changed the statements on his role in drug trafficking.

When he made his statements, Saldana Barrera was prepared to answer the questions asked in such a way as to convince the court of his innocence. Official sources reported that Alejo Sierra Gomez, the third district court judge, will judge this morning what the defendant's legal status will be.

MEXICO

CONFISCATION OF 2 TONS OF MARIHUANA

Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 15 Jul 77 p 10-A

[Text] Last night, FJP[federal judicial police] agents captured 2 tons of marihuana worth 4 million pesos on the drug black market and they arrested three owners of the drug.

The police worked hard and for a long time on this case. They even had to disguise themselves several times and to remain long hours on guard observing houses and shadowing people to locate the drug traffickers.

The drug traffickers are Modesto Flores Lamas, age 27, Francisco Javier Macias Mercado, age 21 and Ernesto Benavides Cortinas, alias "El Negro", age 57.

The first and third of these drug traffickers are well known in the region. They have repeatedly been in jail for drug trafficking.

First, Modesto Flores Lamas was arrested in a 1966 Ford Galaxie 500, license plates GWZ-488; next, Francisco Javier Macias Mercado , in a 1973 Pontiac without license plates, with a press marker on the windshield and finally, Ernesto Benavides Cortinas, the leader of the traffickers, while he was driving a 1975 Ford pickup truck, license plates 502-ZRY.

The marihuana was found in a dwelling at 42 Calle Camilo Manzo between Calles 3 and 4. The drug traffickers had rented it to store the grass in. They rented it from an American who seems to be its owner.

Almost 2 tons of marihuana were perfectly wrapped and stored in the kitchen and piled in one of the bedroom closets.

The FJP agents led by Commander Clemente Sanchez, the group chief, confiscated the marihuana and the vehicles. The traffickers did not possess arms and offered no resistance.

Francisco Javier Macias Mercado was arrested when he was in his car along Calle Bernabe Sosa in the Modelo section; Ernesto Benavides Cortina in his pickup truck, along Calle 14 and Laguna Leona, Buenavista development, and ~~Modelo~~ ~~truck~~

Modesto Flores Lamas, opposite the Technological Institute [Tecnologico] along Carretera Gral Lauro Villar.

How the Capture Was Made

A drug addict informed the FJP that there was in Matamoros a marihuana distributor. The agents did not know what was involved--large scale sales or just a courier or a pusher. They shadowed the suspect and through him found out about Modesto Flores Lamas.

Night before last at dusk, the FJP took by surprise Flores Lamas and another suspicious person opposite Alberca Chaves. The two seemed to be chatting but they were making a deal for 50 kgs of marihuana. Modesto was delivering the marihuana when the FJP agents captured him but the other trafficker escaped.

A determined pursuit of the fugitive began immediately. The fugitive was Francisco Javier Macias Mercado. He succeeded in hiding during the entire night but was captured yesterday morning at about 0700 hours. The FJP agents knew little about Macias Mercado [karateca] except the model and the make of his white Pontiac with a press marker on the windshield. They inquired who he was and arrested him.

Macias Mercado informed on Ernesto Benavides Cortinas, alias "El Negro". The FJP agents did not know that he was the owner of the marihuana nor did they suspect that he was the gang leader until Macias Mercado [karateca] told them so. After that it was easy.

For greater security, the prisoners are being held since yesterday at the city garrison. Today they will be turned over to Fernando Edgardo Velazquez, the prosecuting attorney.

Last night in police circles, the comments were made that this is the largest amount of marihuana captured during the last 2 years. At that time, FJP agents captured 1.2 tons of it with the help of traffic department agents on the Carretera Reynosa opposite the bull fighter stadium and the case before this one was the confiscation of 2 tons of the drug from the pseudo military man Carlos Cornejo and his accomplices at Gral Lauro Villar beach.

8923
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

BULLETS SMUGGLER CAPTURED

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 23 Jul 77 p 9-B

[Text] Yesterday, customs inspectors arrested an old woman who is presumed to be a courier for a subversive group. She had in her possession 1,500 bullets for high-powered firearms which she had acquired in Laredo, Texas.

Jesus Avalos Ficachi, the customs guard commander, reported that at 1300 hours yesterday, corporal Leobardo Trevino who was on duty at the Miguel Aleman customs sentry box found 200 .22 cal bullets in the handbag of the old woman Julia Lopez de Miranda. This aroused his suspicions so he requested a woman customs guard to make a body search of the old woman. Under her clothes, she wore a coarse cotton cloth vest in which she carried 1,300 additional bullets.

When the woman saw that she was exposed, she offered 3,000 pesos to Second Commander Angel Gutierrez who took her to the customs administrator. The latter, together with the head of the customs guard, thoroughly interrogated her. Mrs Lopez de Miranda admitted that on other occasions she had gone to the port and had acquired in the neighboring city bullets for firearms which she later retailed in Monterrey.

The prisoner denied that she was a supplier for any subversive group. However, she contradicted herself numerous times. She even said that she did not know on what street in the Sultana del Norte she lived.

When the American authorities issued her a local card, she said she lived in Colonia Rodriguez, Ciudad Miguel Aleman, Tamaulipas but later moved to Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, where she lived some days with one person and for a time with other people.

She could not explain why she had a different name on her registration card. The press was requested not to publish that name so as not to hinder the investigation which the federal judicial police or the federal security directorate will make.



With this sort of a vest, Julia Lopez de Miranda smuggled for some time fair amounts of several caliber bullets. (Foto Funes)



This picture was taken of the old woman Julia Lopez de Miranda in the customs administrator's office while she was being interrogated by Commander Jesus Avila Ficachi, the head of the customs guard. (Foto Funes).

8923
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

BRIEFS

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKERS SENTENCED--Official spokesmen for the third district court reported that yesterday Alejo Sierra Gomez, the third district court judge sentenced the three members of the gang of drug traffickers led by Homero Flores Lopez who was declared insane. The following persons were found guilty of crimes against public health under the category of illegally exporting marihuana: Pablo Vazquez Flores, alias "El Coreano"; Jose Luis Mata Pedraza, alias "El Chito" and Nicolas Juarez Rodriguez, alias "El Colas". The court sentenced each one of them to 8 years imprisonment and fines of 10,000 pesos or 1 additional month imprisonment. The serving of the sentence began 10 September 1976, the date on which the federal judicial police captured them. According to the corresponding police report, they arrested Jose Luis Mata Pedraza after they learned that he exported marihuana. During interrogation, "Chito" Mata confessed that he had repeatedly taken across the river to the American side loads of marihuana and that his employer was Homero Flores Lopez. He added that the previous day they took to the United States 23 istle sacks of grass. As a result, the agents arrested Flores Lopez, Pablo Vazquez and Nicolas Juarez; the last two, for helping Mata Pedraza take the drug across the river. The federal agents passed the information given by the prisoners to the American authorities who captured Oscar Martinez and four other persons who were transporting the 23 sacks of evil grass. A few days ago, the drug trafficker Homero Flores Lopez was released due to the legal sophistry used to declare him legally insane. [Text][Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 28 Jul 77 p 3-B] 8923

SEIZURE OF 5 TONS OF MARIHUANA--Mexico, DF., 28 July (ANPE)--The federal judicial police confiscated 5.5 tons of marihuana in several operations in the states of Sinaloa and Chihuahua and they arrested three persons.[Text][Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 29 Jul 77 p 6-A] 8923

ARREST OF ANOTHER COCAINE SMUGGLER--As a result of the thorough investigations of the drug trafficking ring which a few days ago was broken up, the federal judicial police captured another smuggler who was hiding in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. His name is Bernardo Lozano Sanchez. Juarez Jimenez, the agency coordinator of the federal public prosecutor's office, said that the federal agents continue looking for other persons implicated in the same case. This resulted in the capture in Monterrey of Bernardo Lozano Sanchez. He was immediately brought to this city and placed at the disposal of the third district court judge who is presiding over this trial. The judge ordered the imprisonment and

the presentation for a hearing of the prisoner Bernardo Lozano. During the hearing Lozano brazenly denied participation in the events under consideration. In regard to his involvement with the seven captured drug traffickers, he is said to have bought cocaine repeatedly from engineer Joaquin Luna Flores. Today, the third district court judge will judge on the legal status of the drug traffickers Eduardo Alvarado Rodriguez, Perfecto Gaytan Elias, Santos Vazquez Villalobos, Jorge Perez Cardona, Ramiro Guerra Barrera, Jose Luis A-yala Lozano, Joaquin Luna Flores and the recently arrested Bernardo Lozano Sanchez. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 30 Jul 77 p 3-B] 8923

DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED--Pedro Gaytan Elias, who was previously found guilty of a crime against public health under the category of illegally exporting heroin, has been given another sentence which he will begin to serve on the day he finishes serving the term to which he was sentenced by the same second district court which sentenced him yesterday. For this crime, Judge Luis Garcia Romero sentenced him to 8 years 6 months imprisonment and a fine of 7,245 pesos in cash or 90 additional days imprisonment. In these same proceedings, the judge imposed on Calixto Quirino Juarez an identical sentence. The proceedings in which both men were sentenced resulted from the investigation by the federal prosecuting attorney after Mauro Ortiz Banda was arrested in Laredo, Texas. He had in his possession 8 ounces of heroin which Calixto Quirino Juarez had given him in this city. As a result of this, Quirino was arrested. He confessed that he delivered the drug to Mauro Ortiz by order of Pedro Gaytan Elias who in the municipal jail gave him the diabolic "powder" a few days earlier. At the court, it was reported that these events took place on 21 November 1975. Later, federal agents searched Gaytan Elias' cell and found 290 gms of powder which appeared to be heroin and a fair amount of marihuana. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 30 Jul 77 p 3-B] 8923

AMERICAN DRUG TRAFFICKERS REFUSE EXCHANGE TO AMERICAN PRISONS--Ciudad Juarez, Chih., 24 July (ANPE)--Americans serving sentences in the Ciudad Juarez municipal penitentiary refuse to participate in the prisoner exchange recently approved by the American and Mexican federal governments. There are 20 Americans in that jail. All of them are accused of possessing and trafficking drugs. In spite of the harshness and the conditions under which they live in the Mexican prisons, the foreign prisoners informed the ANPE reporter of their decision not to be included in the exchange. In Mexico, they can obtain advantages which ease the time they spend imprisoned. For example, they are allowed TV in their cells, food other than that served by the jail, marital visitation and so forth. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 25 Jul 77 p 2-A] 8923

CUSTOMS COMMANDER APPOINTED--By order of Guillermo Velazquez Herrera, the director general of customs, Jose Almanza Mota, a member of the Customs Guard in this city, was promoted to the position of commander. Jesus Avalos Fiuchi, the chief of the Customs Guard, said that Almanza Mota will take over his duties as commander during the fortnight which begins tomorrow. Yesterday morning, Manuel Adame Garza, the local customs administrator, officially announced the appointment and assignment of Jose Almanza Mota as commander. A Customs

Guard spokesman said that this appointment had been expected since Jose Almanza Mota is one of the men who carried out his superiors' orders and satisfied the needs of the service. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 14 Jul 77 p 4-B] 8923

CUSTOMS INSPECTOR APPOINTED--The general directorate of customs appointed Commander Felipe Garcia Segovia, the former customs guard chief, to second in command of the fifth customs inspection and vigilance zone with headquarters in Merida, Yucatan. Guillermo Velazquez Herrera, the customs service chief, sent a telex to the local customs office announcing that, effective today, Garcia Segovia occupies this position. After Garcia Segovia left the customs guard post, he was transferred to the deputy general directorate of vigilance for a few days. Now he has this assignment in the southeast of the nation. The informant explained that Commander Garcia Segovia's jurisdiction at the fifth customs inspection and vigilance zone includes the states of Yucatan, Campeche, Tabasco and Quintana Roo. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 14 Jul 77 p 8-B] 8923

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS APPOINTED--Desde La Capital column by Lupe Diaz Jr--Effective 1 July, Sergio Sandoval Michel and Dagoberto Martinez Becerra took office as agents of the public prosecutor's office. The former was assigned to the Nuevo Laredo penal courts. He replaced Lamberto Rocha who is now a Reynosa penal court judge. Martinez Becerra succeeded Miguel Garcia Riestra who resigned from his position in the Soto Marina office. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 5 Jul 77 p 5-A] 8923

TALKS ON DRUG ADDICTION--Next week at the housing developments in the west of the city, the DIF [Integral Family Development] system will begin giving talks on drug addiction, paternal responsibility and family planning. Dr Jorge Andres Almanza, the DIF director, reported yesterday that with the participation of the DIF social workers, the municipal doctors and psychologists, this campaign will provide humble families necessary consultations on those three subjects. Dr Almanza said, "To achieve family balance for the improvement of conditions in the homes social aspects of the community must be cared for since drug addiction, parent responsibility and family planning are among DIF's main preoccupations." He added that Claudette Villarreal de Cantu Rivas [the mayor's wife] is the leader of this campaign to provide guidance. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 15 Jul 77 p 1-B] 8923

CARE FOR CHILD DRUG ADDICTS--By sending today 5 more children to the Rehabilitation Center for Minors in Guemes, DIF [Integral Family Development] system will expedite care for those children enticed into drug addiction. Dr Mario Martinez Gonzalez, head of the DIF psychology department, said that care has been provided for all children arrested while intoxicated by sniffing industrial solvents. The DIF systems desire their immediate rehabilitation. With the consent of their families, these children will be sent today to Guemes where care is being provided at present for a large group of children who due to diverse circumstances have become the prey of drug ad-

diction. Dr Martinez Gonzalez said, "We are trying to activate our functions at DIF in view of the fact that this child problem tends to proliferate as the city grows." [Text] Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 18 Jul 77 p 1-B] 8923

DRIVE AGAINST SALE OF INHALANTS--Ciudad Acuna, Coahuila, 13 July 1977--from our correspondent--Juvenile court inspectors are watching hardware stores selling products such as thinner, Sarolo and 5000 glue. They are also watching bookstores selling pornographic magazines to minors. These inspectors checked movie theaters and captured several minors watching films suitable for adults only. To confirm the violations of the law, the inspectors took the minors' names and addresses and also the names of their parents. Since they had violated the Law for the Protection of Minors [Ley Tutelar Para Menores] by allowing minors in the theaters when adult only films were being exhibited, the movie theaters Cine Virginia and Cine Reforma were fined. The municipal mayor will impose fines of between 500 to 5000 pesos on the managers of the aforementioned cinemas for the aforementioned violations of the law. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 14 Jul 77 p 4-A] 8923

LEADER OF INVADERS, A TRAFFICKER--by A. Rojas--Yesterday, it transpired that the previous day, FJP[Federal Judicial Police] arrested some drug traffickers. Their spurious leader, Francisco Guerrero Villa was the leader of the Santa Barbara estate invaders recently evicted by the government. Investigations of the drug traffickers revealed Guerro Villa's and his accomplices' evil plans. They planned another invasion under the pretext of turning over the lands to the peasants but the lands were to be used to raise drug producing plants. Guerrero Villa and Jesus Gonzalez Tadeo were captured in a house on Calle Frontera. When the FJP agents arrived at the detestable leader's house, his relatives and accomplices scattered marihuana to prevent it being seized. However, the bulk of the marihuana was discovered. Guerrero Villa planned to continue to lead the families who invaded Santa Barbara even though he knew those lands were exempted by a presidential decree because they protect the Nogales water supply. The spurious leader preferred this violent and subversive situation because it concealed his true activities. Plans also existed to plant other rugged land with drug producing plants. When he was being taken to the federal public prosecutor's office, Guerrero Villa offered a large bribe in cash. He said, "It is not becoming that it become known that I, the leader of the land invaders, am primarily a drug trafficker. [Text] Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 9 Jul 77 pp 1, 2] 8923

APPEALS COURT REDUCED SENTENCES--The Eighth Circuit Unitary Tribunal at Torreon, Coahuila, reduced sentences of Jose Guadalupe Lara Reynoso and Alberto Torres who had been found guilty of a crime against public health under the categories of possession and transportation of marihuana. Xavier Luevano Mesta, the head of the district court penal board, said penal proceedings No 126/974 were prepared against the aforementioned persons. He added that Jose Guadalupe Lara Reynoso was sentenced to 4 years 3 months imprisonment and fined 4,000 pesos. The court reduced his sentence to 3 years 9 months and his fine to 3,000 pesos.

Alberto Torres Gonzalez had been sentenced to 7 years imprisonment and fined 6,600 pesos. This was reduced to 5 years 3 months imprisonment and a fine of 5,000 pesos. The prisoners had been arrested in September 1974. Besides the reductions, the court found them guilty only of possessing marihuana because there was insufficient evidence to prove their guilt of the crime of transporting drugs. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 16 Jul 77 p 3-A] 8923

RELEASE OF DRUG TRAFFICKER--Arturo Garza Villalobos, a drug trafficker, and Jesus Ramirez Soto, a forger of American currency, were sentenced for these crimes. However, they were released yesterday from the municipal jail. Arturo Garza Villalobos was imprisoned in the local jail on 9 December 1972. He was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment and fined 4,000 pesos for a crime against public health. Prevencion y Readaptacion Social [Prevention and Social Readaptation] reduced his sentence by 848 days so yesterday he was set free as having served his sentence. [Excerpts] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 15 Jul 77 p 5-B] 8923

COCAINE CONFISCATED--Mexico, 15 July--CISA--The Federal Judicial Police and members of the Mexican army caused international drug trafficking a serious setback when they captured more than 50 members of a gang from whom they confiscated more than 10 kgs of cocaine worth 50 million pesos on the black market. The arrest of the drug traffickers was made at Culiacan, Sinaloa, when members of the gang were preparing to make a drugs trade. The drugs were to be shipped to the United States. None of the delinquents resisted arrest so the operation was carried out without any violence. The 10 kgs of pure cocaine were seized from Ernesto Ramirez Gonzalez, the gang's leader. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 16 Jul 77 p 3-A] 8923

HEROIN CONFISCATED--by H. Lavin--Yesterday afternoon, the FJP [federal judicial police] agents evidently confiscated a large amount of drugs, apparently heroin, from three persons they arrested. The prisoners were taken to the public prosecutor's office but this office released no information. The FJP agents arrested two men and a woman after they learned of a shipment of heroin, almost 2 kgs, from Sinaloa to a known Nogales drug trafficker. This report is unofficial. Unusual movements were seen among FJP agents and investigators. The reporters obtained no confirmation as to the size of the seizure or of the prisoners' names. Evidently, a sale of a large amount of drugs had been made before the arrests. Tomorrow, confirmation will be obtained on the latest setback to drug trafficking. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 21 Jul 77 p 4] 8923

WOMAN HEROIN TRAFFICKER ARRESTED--Juana Beltran Lopez is imprisoned at the police headquarters jail and is at the disposition of the court of equity's public prosecutor because a coffee-colored substance, evidently heroin, was found in her possession. Investigation Department agents arrested and searched Juana Beltran when she was in a cream-colored 1964 Ford Comet, license plates RPL-837. During the search of the car, an agent found under the front

seat cover a coffee-colored wallet containing papers and a package wrapped in tinfoil, inside of which was a page of a magazine holding a coffee-colored powder, evidently heroin, mixed with a white powder. The agents immediately requested a police patrol to take the woman to headquarters where she was imprisoned and the heroin was deposited in the office for the corresponding investigation. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 20 Jul 77 p 4] 8923

ROTATION OF CUSTOMS PERSONNEL--Cd. Miguel Aleman, Tam.--During an interview with EL MANANA, Roberto Morales Garza, head of the local customs, reported that Sergio Pola de la Torre, the former head of the Visa Section in this city's Frontier Customs, was transferred to the same post at the Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Customs. Pola de la Torre's transfer is part of the rotation plan announced by the General Directorate of Customs. Additional transfers of customs' officers are expected momentarily. Who else will be transferred is not known at present. The head of customs will opportunely order this by radio. Before the end of this week, Pola de la Torre will take over as head of the Visa Section of the Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Customs. He was transferred by the secretary of finance and public credit. During the interview, Morales Garza also reported that last month 2,602,726.92 pesos were collected on exports and imports. This was more than in May. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 9 Jul 77 p 7-B] 8923

CUSTOMS OFFICE APPOINTMENTS--Yesterday, the Frontier Customs announced that the General Directorate of Customs had ordered the appointment of a new second commander, a muster roll commander, four corporals, a warehouseman and an auditor. Manuel Adame Garza, the customs administrator, said that to date Oscar Guerra Cavazos has been appointed second commander and Guillermo Nuche Romero, muster roll commander. The following guards were promoted to corporal: Guillermo Jones Bravo, Ramon Gonzalez Rios, Rafael Hernandez Valencia and Mauro de la Cruz. Jose Francisco Escamilla was transferred from administrative officer to warehouseman and Raul Rodriguez Osorio from management assistant to auditor. He added that the higher authorities made these assignments after studying the file on each man. Adame Garza pointed out that the newly appointed personnel started to work yesterday. In most cases they are available for the present for any assignment since the duty rosters are prepared bi-weekly. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 23 Jul 77 p 12-A] 8923

CSO: 5330

KUWAIT

FIVE KILOS OF HASHISH SEIZED IN AL-AHMADI

Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 13 Jul 77 p 2

[Text] Investigators in al-Ahmadi province seized a quantity of hashish with an estimated weight of five kilos in the possession of two persons suspected of selling drugs to people who ask for them. The suspects brought in the drugs from Pakistan and Iran.

The agents had ample information indicating that a man named Ya'qub M., who works for Kuwaiti Airlines, was smuggling and promoting the sale of narcotics in Kuwait, assisted by a man named Shero Midar. An informant was provided with a sum of money. He went to see the first suspect and asked him to sell him one kilo of hashish for 150 Kuwaiti dinars. But the suspect refused under the pretext that he wanted to see the whole quantity i.e. 5 kilos.

The informant returned to report his findings to the acting inspector of investigation in al-Ahmadi. The director of security in the governorate Col. Nasir al-Badr was informed and issued an order to seize the whole quantity of hashish and to raid the house of the first suspect after. The informant was provided with the sum needed to complete the arrest.

The raid was carried out by two al-Ahmadi detectives and a group of security personnel who found the quantity of hashish buried in the sand. The second suspect, who was watching the sale transaction, escaped but investigators arrested him in al-Fuhayhil district.

When the first suspect was charged, he stated that he had received that quantity of hashish from a man named 'Abd al-Nabi, that he did not know his family name and that he was outside Kuwait.

Evidence showed that the first suspect was lying and that he was smuggling narcotics and exploiting his position with the Kuwaiti Airlines by bringing in narcotics and avoiding inspection. It is clear that the second suspect was a partner to the first in promoting and facilitating the sale of narcotics and watching the delivery of the goods to the customers.

The suspect's case was referred to the public prosecutor who issued a warrant for their detention pending further investigation.

6800
CSO: 5300

LEBANON

OPIUM POPPY COMPETES WITH HASHISH PLANT

Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 22-28 Jul 77 p 29

[Text] The arrest of the German millionaire, Christiana von Opel, and her seven friends in southern France led to the disclosure of exciting secrets that point to Lebanon as the principle source, after Turkey, of the opium poppy, as well as Indian hemp (hashish). The International Police (Interpol) followed the delicate interrogation that the French police were conducting with Christiana von Opel, Putzi, and her seven imprisoned friends, whose number rose to nine when two Lebanese were included in their caravan. The French police at the beginning of last week suddenly raided a chic Parisian apartment which the German millionaire, Putzi, apparently owns in Paris.

After the French police found the two Lebanese citizens, Muhammad K. and Rabih H. in the apartment, they arrested them as part of a further investigation in light of the confessions of the Opel empire heiress and her associates and their information about the two's connection with the amount of Lebanese hashish (1150 kilos), throwing light on the illicit movement of drugs from Lebanon to the European markets, as well as the characteristics of the boats that carry the hashish, the cargo of drugs, and the route that they follow.

Interpol placed this information at the disposal of the French police in a detailed file about five Lebanese who were arrested in the past month in Italy after a kilo of pure heroin was found in their possession.

The derivation of the heroin from the opium was another link in the Lebanese smuggling ring and acted as an incentive for Interpol to conduct a speedy investigation as to whether or not Lebanon was once again a source of opium, heroin and other derivatives, that are sent to Europe, the United States and Canada.

The initial investigations revealed startling new facts. There is a series of secret laboratories that treat opium. This opium, however, is not Turkish but rather a great part of it is Lebanese. It is clear that the cultivation of poppies occupies a wide area in the high mountainous zones in northern Lebanon where the climate is similar to that of the elevated zones of Anatolia

where they are also grown. There, however, they are cultivated under token supervision of the Turkish authorities. It is also clear that this cultivation for the first time accompanied the cultivation of hashish in the Hirmin mountains and the Biqa' valley.

An Interpol source has stated that the acreage of poppies in the Biqa' Valley is greater than 2500 feddans but that there is still not enough detailed information about the acreage of poppies in areas in northern Lebanon and especially in the regions of Ihdin, Bsharri and al-'Aqrabah.

Opium is extracted from the sac of the poppies by an incision made with a very sharp knife. From this incision flows a ripe green gum from which opium is made.

Poppies were grown in Lebanon, though in small amounts, until the first years of the mandate. They were destined for use in Arab medicine. Before that time, mothers would grind the poppy sacs and give their children solutions of this to drink to induce them to sleep and to calm their coughs.

After the mandate was established, an authority was set up especially to control poppy growing so that it finally disappeared, particularly since Indian hemp from which hashish is extracted was more profitable and the crop was more abundant than Turkish opium.

The investigation by Interpol also revealed the illicit movement of Turkish opium to Lebanon as an intermediate step in its manufacture. It is usually brought in small ships that take it to many small towns on the northern coast that are responsible for unloading it and taking it to secret factories. It is obvious that at the moment there is no central authority capable of fighting and legally prosecuting this very widespread business.

Since the United States is the final stop for most of the Lebanese heroin which goes either directly there or via Marseilles or Corsica, diplomatic contacts were made with the Damascus government about the use of the deterrent forces in stopping the smuggling. These contacts, however, are not producing any results because the situation extends beyond the control of the deterrent forces.

This being the case, there is great American concern in observing and especially in helping the reformation of a united Lebanese army as a nucleus of an executive authority with power to step in and enforce the laws.

CSO: 5300

BELGIUM

POLICE REPORT EXTENSIVE DRUG HAUL

Brussels LE SOIR in French 31 July p 4

[Article by Jean Rebuffat]

[Text] Less than two hours from Amsterdam by road and hardly more by rail, Brussels often serves as a way station for those who traffic in drugs whose final destination is Amsterdam, where the narcotics are redistributed. The Chinese underworld is particularly active in this traffic. (Who does not remember the bloody squarings of accounts in recent years?) It is also not out of the question that some Chinese at Anvers or at Brussels serve as relays. Nothing is more discreet, of course, than a restaurant as a meeting place. How much drug goes through Brussels National? It is impossible to answer, except perhaps for a discouraging "lots of it."

And yet...

The effort of the customs men and gendarmes, aided by canine sniffers, including the celebrated Bingo, who detects "H" at 10 meters through a good thickness of leather and cloth, is commendable, and hardly a week passes without the report of a big seizure.

For example, from 30 June to 29 July a whole series of passers have been arrested and their drugs seized.

Before going on to enumerate them, we should mention that under the new legislation these traffickers, if proved guilty, with the aggravating circumstance of being part of a ring of criminals, risk a maximum of 10 years in prison at the hands of the police court (as against 5 previously, and 2 a few years ago).

The Clumsy and the Inventive

The passers who are caught may be divided into three categories -- the clumsy, the ordinary, and the inventive. Or, by the drug passed, hashish traders and heroin traders. Or again, by the airport from which they come. There are those from Kuala Lumpur and from Bangkok... and the others. The majority come from Malaysia or Thailand, sometimes from Hong Kong. Why?

The drugs that they transport (heroin 3, called "brown sugar," rather grayish and of mediocre quality, which sells for about 5,000 francs a gram on the retail market, or heroin 4, called "Marseillaise," white, very pure, at 7,000 francs a gram) come from the Golden Triangle (Laos, Burma, Thailand) and go down to Kuala Lumpur or Bangkok by manual methods. There they are shipped out toward Brussels, Amsterdam, London, Luxembourg, sometimes, or Frankfurt. Sometimes the traffickers try to disguise the place of origin of their passers. Recently a passer was arrested at Brussels who had come from Moscow. Who would have suspected a passenger who got on the plane at Moscow of carrying heroin in his bags? The passer had taken a Bangkok-Moscow flight, where he was in transit; there he had his bag checked through.

Not having a knowledge that meets the criteria of appearance, we have never had a chance to experience it, but we believe that a "Chinaman" getting off the Kuala Lumpur flight at Zaventem runs a great risk of being more closely searched than an ordinary passenger.

There are some whose bearing gives them away. For example, there were the five Tanzanians, apparently very stiff and sore, who tried to get past customs on 30 June of this year. They had 13 kg of cannabis each stuck to their arms, legs, and bellies!

On 15 July a Malaysian was arrested coming from Bangkok; his bag had a double bottom, in which was hidden 450 grams of "Marseillaise." He said the drug was intended for France.

A Suitcase

On 17 July, Bingo sniffed out a suitcase containing 15 kg 120 g of hashish. Nobody came to claim it, and the name of its owner was evidently false. It had been checked through from Frankfurt.

On 18 July, another Malaysian with a double bottom, so to speak -- 1 kg 220 g of "brown sugar." He had gotten on at Kuala Lumpur. On 22 July the same, but from Bombay, and only 800 g. Also on 22 July, the most interesting seizure, because it was the first of its kind: 2 kg of "brown sugar" in the hollow of plastic thread that had been woven into baskets. What patience it must have taken to stuff the heroin in there and make pretty red and white shopping baskets out of it which passed as hand luggage.

It was a Chinese from Hong Kong that was carrying those two baskets. He answers to the name of Tang Mau Fat, age 28, and is a laborer. Dozens of others may have succeeded where he failed. Or possibly the trial run went wrong.

On 23 July, two Malaysians were coming from Bangkok with a suitcase with a double bottom containing (guess!) 2 kg of "brown sugar." They were on the way to Amsterdam.

Like the others, they did not know who had given them the bag nor what was in it; they just wanted to do a favor to a friend of a friend.

And the worst of it is that very often they are right; they know nothing about the channels, and are merely the front-line soldiers, more exposed of course, and for less pay, than the officers who direct them (and whose generals are untouchable).

.....

Nine kg of Heroin Discovered at Eindhoven

Eindhoven, 29 July. -- Wednesday morning, while searching an apartment in this city, the Eindhoven police accidentally found 9 kg of heroin with an estimated value of about 40 million Belgian francs.

The tenant was arrested along with five Chinese.

The police were searching the apartment because they hoped to find there some Chinese residing in the Netherlands illegally.

5588
CSO: 5300

BELGIUM

HASHISH SMUGGLED FROM ENTEBBE TO BRUSSELS SEIZED

Brussels LE SOIR in French 13 Jul 77 p 4

[Article by J.-C. V.]

[Text] The story begins with a report of the railway police, in the person of the officer of the North Station at Brussels.

"During the night of 8-9 July," the report says approximately, "we were notified by the officer in charge of baggage that 'two big Negroes' (sic) carrying two suitcases, one of which appeared very heavy, had just turned them in at the baggage room. One of the suitcases gave off a strong vegetable odor. When the baggage officer shook it a few sprigs escaped..."

Hemp, hashish, drugs? That is what these people thought, and they were right; the BSR [expansion unknown], when alerted, confirmed their suspicions.

A trap was set. And on Sunday, 10 July, at 1730 hours, the "two Negroes" in question presented themselves at the baggage room and turned in the tickets corresponding to their suitcases. They were arrested, of course.

Houmani Kamara, a 37-year-old Malian, denied everything. He never knew he was transporting drugs. It was the other one who arranged everything.

His companion, Mohamed Eyoku Patty, a 22-year-old Ugandan, admitted everything. They both came from Entebbe by a Sabena flight that was to take them to Amsterdam via Brussels. But at Brussels there was no connection for the Netherlands. Sabena paid for their hotel room for the night. They checked in and immediately went to the North Station to take a train to Amsterdam. The precious suitcase containing 28 kg of banghi, a variety of African marihuana, was with them, you can be sure.

But at Amsterdam they found no takers. So they came back by train with the suitcase to Brussels, and at the North Station they openly turned the cumbersome thing over to the baggage room. They were not counting on the baggage man's fine sense of smell and astuteness.

Kamara does not subscribe to his young companion's story. He claims to be pure as the driven snow. That is doubtless contrary to all the evidence. First because it is not by chance that they were traveling together; their plane tickets, train tickets, and baggage checks all bear consecutive numbers. Then because Kamara -- as was confirmed at the hotel where he stayed in Brussels -- is a habitual traveler from Entebbe to Brussels, always stays at the same hotel, where he meets a lot of people, and is even suspected there of being involved in the drug traffic. Moreover, they added at the hotel, he had even escaped justice last December when the police raided the hotel.

A good haul, certainly; Kamara seems to be a big fish, and the drug seized is worth a good million francs on the market.

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CSO: 5300

CYPRUS

BRIEFS

HASHISH SEIZED AT SEA--The largest quantity of narcotics ever discovered in Cyprus was found last Tuesday afternoon near Xylofagou village. Acting on information, the police found 486 cakes of hashish weighing 162 kilos in the sea near the location "Potamos tis Xylofagou." The hashish was hidden inside automobile tire tubes wrapped in sackcloth. The police have arrested the following persons in connection with the investigations: Kharalambos Andreou Mavridis, alias Rambos, 32, from Xylofagou; Kostas Khristodoulou Okkalis, 52, from Ormidia; Mikhalis Andoniou Aspris, 50, from Xylofagou; and 'Abd al-Hamid Mabruk, 37, from Lebanon and now resident of Ormidia. The investigations are continuing. [Text] [Nicosia TA NEA in Greek 11 Aug 77 p 8 NC]

CSO: 5300

ITALY

ITALIAN POLICE SEIZE HASHISH EN ROUTE TO SWEDEN

Stockholm EXPRESSEN in Swedish 10 Jul 77 p 7

[Article by Bertil Brohman: "Drug Seizure - 650 Kilograms of Hashish Stopped en Route to Arlanda"]

[Text] An alert drughound at the Rome international airport contributed directly to the biggest drug seizure ever by Italian police.

650 kilogram hashish - address Stockholm and Arlanda.

Police do not want to say just yet whether the drug seizure in Rome is in any way connected with the fast growing drug tangle at Arlanda.

The confiscation took place yesterday morning, when a Pakistani International Airlines' plane en route to Copenhagen from Karachi and Damascus made a stop-over landing in Rome.

One of the airport's drughounds reacted during a routine baggage inspection. It turned out to be the most "illustrious" seizure in the history of the Italian police: 650 kilogram hashish, packed in ten large wooden boxes. The wooden boxes served to camouflage an equal number of zinc capsules that were soldered together to prevent drughounds from tracking the content.

One Capsule Cracked

The detection of the large supply of drugs was made possible because one of the capsules had cracked in transport.

The ten boxes were addressed to Stockholm and the shipment was labeled "souvenirs." It also carried the names of both sender and intended receiver, but Rome police suspect that both names are false.

At the same time - according to yesterday's issue of EXPRESSEN - a large tangle is under investigation in Stockholm.

About twenty persons, most of them employed by SAS and Luft-fartsverket (Air Transportation Service) are being held by police, suspected of drug smuggling on a large scale.

It is already clear that the drug smuggling at Arlanda involves several hundred kilograms of marihuana and hashish. Many of the drugs had been purchased by Arlanda personnel in Bangkok, Thailand. Employees have been using their free trips for "business purposes."

Police suspect that heavier narcotics, like heroin, may also be involved.

As of this moment, authorities do not know whether the narcotics ring that was exposed at Arlanda has any connection with the huge seizure that was made in Rome.

These do, indeed, resemble some of the earlier confiscated shipments. Previous shipments have also arrived with the content description "confectionery goods" and the like.

None of the confiscated shipments have been anywhere near as large as the one that was seized by Rome police yesterday.

Succeeded in Evading Swedish Customs

"The finesse" associated with the Arlanda case seems to have been several successful attempts to keep the goods from going through Swedish customs. By having airport ground personnel take care of the goods upon arrival, they were able to remove the packages without any interference; they simply took the packages with them when they left for home.

The Swedish drug tangle is far from being solved. A 28-year old man, an SAS employee, is supposed to have organized the drug smuggling. But police suspect that the 28-year-old does not really represent the top of the iceberg. They suspect that one or more of his superiors organized the giant chain of couriers and illicit salesmen, who, in turn, handled the details of the smuggling operation.

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CSO: 5300

PORUGAL

HASHISH CONFISCATED IN PORTO, LISBON

Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS in Portuguese 26 Jul 77 p 10

[Text] The Judicial Police of Porto dismantled part of a network of drug traffickers and confiscated 15,000 contos worth of hashish, the largest quantity of this drug ever seized in our country. The operation conducted by the Judicial Police received special attention. Two young women, who have already been arrested, were followed by Judicial Police agents for about 3 days, and unbeknownst to them, were even photographed.

The seizure of 8 kilos of hashish in Lisbon last 12 July was the starting point for the discovery of such an important network. In fact, thanks to some information and following an investigation, the Judicial Police learned that a car with Madrid tags had been put aboard a cargo ship, the "Murtens"; its destination was the port of Leixoes and the car was carrying a large hidden quantity of drugs packed as bricks.

From the information previously gathered, the police knew that two young women and a man had rented a car from the firm Flamingo Limitada at 4-A Rua de Luciano Cordeiro in Lisbon; they were driving to Porto together to get hold of the car carrying the "merchandise." Since they knew the car's license number, investigators detected the vehicle and followed it continuously. On one occasion, the young women were even photographed when they visited the maritime agency representing the "Murtens" on Rua das Flores, where they had gone to take care of the formalities in connection with the car aboard ship.

Accordingly, on 18 July, when the ship entered the port of Leixoes, the Judicial Police went into action, first arresting the two young women, later apprehending the man and finally seizing the car, which was then driven to the Judicial Police private garage. Once there, the car was painstakingly searched, and hundreds of well-camouflaged hashish bricks were found hidden in various spots, wrapped in foil; there were no fewer than 550 in all, weighing about 78kg and estimated to cost approximately 15,000 contos. This is the largest seizure of drugs in Portugal.

Three Young Foreigners

Following this important find, the arrested were taken to the offices of the deputy chief of police and it appears that two of them were carrying false documents. The two young women are Maria Dolores Peres Garcia, 22, a Philippine citizen, and Ana Maria Nogales Peres, 22, residing at 25 Rua de Martelou in Madrid. The man's name is Juan Maria Cabello Sanz, 31, residing in Bilbao. At the time of his arrest at the Imperial Cafe on Liberdade Square in Porto, this individual claimed to be Jose Serra Romagoera, 24, a resident of Palma de Maiorca. Naturally, this identity was proved wrong shortly thereafter, once he confessed his real name, despite the fact that he actually was in possession of a passport establishing his name as previously claimed.

According to the facts of the case, the young women were in London to pursue their studies, and it is likely that this is where they became involved with Juan Sanz in the drug traffic. As for the origin of the hashish, the accused allegedly said that it had been bought in Casablanca, Morocco, for a total of 300,000 pesetas--a figure which does not seem correct. What is beyond doubt is that the drug came from the Moroccan capital and that Juan Sanz is quite well-known in the world of drugs.

However, it seems that the network is much wider, despite the established fact that the rest of the traffickers are conducting their activities abroad. At this point, it is known that some are Spanish, and another is English. Furthermore, the car was to have been unloaded in Leixoes and driven to Spain, France and Italy, where the hashish was to be marketed.

Besides the Judicial Police of Porto and Lisbon, members of Battalion No 3 of the Fiscal Guard also took part in this operation.

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SWEDEN

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION NEEDED ON TERRORISM, DRUGS

Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 18 Jul 77 p 4

[Article by Claes von Hofsten: "Sweden's Chief of Police Discusses Narcotics and Terrorism"]

[Text] From a police standpoint, terrorism and narcotics are one and the same problem. Sweden's Chief of Police Carl Persson is of that opinion. According to Persson, the most effective antedote lies in international cooperation. In this connection, Sweden has just appointed its first two narcotics ambassadors.

The case of the Japanese professor and the Red army leader who were apprehended in Tyreso the week before last is another example of international cooperation. Police cooperated across the borders in those instances, Persson tells SVENSKA DAGBLADET. However, he does not want to say how the cooperation was carried out.

Carl Persson is not only chief of police in Sweden, he is also president of Interpol, and it is only natural that he should emphasize the need for cooperation in an effort to put an end to international criminal activity.

Police Cooperation

During his four-year presidency he has personified the Swedish attitude about how such criminal activity should be combatted. When Sweden passed a law to deal with international crime, particular emphasis was placed on the need for increased cooperation across the borders.

In spite of the fact that Persson is president of Interpol, he does not promote only the work that is being done through that organization; on the contrary, he feels it might be easier and more expedient to have direct contact between agencies in the different countries.

The World's Most Sensitive

The appointment of two narcotics ambassadors is proof of that. The newly appointed ambassadors will shortly begin their activities in Holland and Thailand.

These are the most sensitive spots in the world right now, says Persson. Bo Levin will leave for Bangkok. He is the head of narcotics for Interpol in northwestern Europe and works out of Paris. Before being appointed head of narcotics for Interpol, he worked for the national narcotics detective unit.

Roy Strangner will be the Swedish narcotics ambassador to Holland. For the time being, he is acting commissioner of the narcotics department in Goteborg. According to reports, he has lived in Holland, is married to a Dutch woman and speaks Dutch.

Better Than Travelling

Since our cooperation with Holland has become so extensive, Persson feels that it would be better to have a person stationed there to handle the communications than to make so many telephone calls and trips.

In Bangkok Levin will have the company of a Dutch and a French narcotics ambassador. A number of countries have decided to send narcotics experts to Thailand in order to somewhat help the narcotics police there, but, above all, to establish better relations with the Thailand narcotics police.

Levin and Strangner will be connected with the respective embassies, but it is not clear what status they will have. To begin with, they are only appointed for six months; after that, it will be time for evaluation. If the experiment is successful, other important narcotic trade centers may eventually come into the picture.

Tough Motives Frightening

Developments are disturbing, not only with respect to the narcotics trade, but also terrorist activities, says Persson. What frightens him most, as he tells it, are the tough motives

that control international crime, money and political fanaticism.

It is unfortunate that Sweden is as involved as it is, but we want to maintain our open border policy. Therefore, the only solution is for police authorities in different countries to work together, just like the Swedish police districts, says Persson.

During the weekend he returned to his summer place on the west coast after spending a week in Stockholm as top security officer at the OPEC meeting there. The week was not as quiet as he had hoped it would be; the capture of the Japanese caused a great deal of work.

Maybe There Are More

Such hard-to-execute special duties are always hanging over him like a threat. Naturally, I cannot guarantee that there are no more wanted terrorists in Sweden, he says. In connection with terrorism, it has often been suggested that police have a secret list of persons who should be turned away immediately if they try to get into this country. The Japanese, who they just captured, is supposed to have been on that list, among others. Who else is on that list is a closely guarded secret.

Persson does not attach much importance to the list. One reason is Sweden's open border policy. Another is that wanted terrorists often carry cleverly falsified passes. Therefore, it is not always certain that they will be exposed, even if they do undergo inspection.

The previously determined resolve to deny someone entry into this country cannot be carried out unless the person in question is exposed at the time of entry or very shortly thereafter. As more time lapses, it becomes the government's responsibility to decide whether a person should be deported, as in the case of the Japanese professor. Whether a person at that time is found on the list or not has no bearing upon the government's trial procedure.

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CSO: 5300

SWEDEN

AIRPORT EMPLOYEES INVOLVED IN DRUG SMUGGLING

Stockholm EXPRESSEN in Swedish 9 Jul 77 p 6

[Article by Per Wendel: "Arlanda a Drug Center - SAS Employees Smuggled Drugs"]

[Text] Arlanda airport has been serving as a center for drugs.

20 persons - of which several are employed by SAS and Luftfartsverket (Air Transport Service) - have been arrested.

They have been smuggling several hundred kilograms of narcotics into Sweden via Arlanda.

District prosecutor Lars Cedermark in Solna prosecuted seven persons yesterday - of which five are SAS employees.

The crime: gross narcotics trade and gross smuggling of goods.

Another ten persons have been arrested or booked. Three have already been sentenced.

District prosecutor Lars Cedermark:

"The investigation is not yet completed. There are another ten suspects. About half of those involved in the smuggling ring are employed by SAS or the Air Transport Service. These persons used their free trips, or greatly rebated trips, for the purpose of buying narcotics."

Became Suspicious

It is primarily marijuana from Thailand that has been smuggled into Arlanda, but there has also been narcotics from Hongkong and Nepal.

The extent of the smuggling is not yet known. But investigators are convinced that it concerns several hundred kilograms of marijuana. One kilogram alone retails for about 20,000 kronor. The ring is also suspected of having smuggled in "heavier" narcotics. Bangkok is one of the foremost shipping centers for heroin today.

Narcotics police began to wind up the tangle in May this year.

One package arrived at Arlanda. It was supposed to contain confectionery goods flown in from Bangkok. One customs officer became suspicious and opened the package. It turned out to be one kilogram of hashish.

The package was addressed to Orebro. When the addressee came to claim the package at the post office, two plain-clothes police detectives stepped forth and seized him.

Three Men Sentenced

Several more packages followed in the same manner from Thailand, Nepal and Bangkok. A couple of weeks ago, three men were sentenced to prison terms for smuggling narcotics by the kilogram in this manner.

It was at that time that narcotics police began to wind up the smuggling story, which might be one of the greatest ever unveiled in Sweden.

We hope to get hold of some of the very top figures in the drug hierarchy by what has been unveiled in this case, says district prosecutor Lars Cedermark.

Elevator Closed

The investigation is not far enough along for narcotics police to determine how the smuggling was done. But they do know that the narcotics were brought into the country primarily in two ways:

SAS personnel sent home packages containing narcotics from Thailand and other countries addressed to persons in Sweden on a prearranged basis.

The smugglers discreetly handed the packages containing narcotics over to the ground personnel already on the airport platform. The ground personnel later took the packages with them when they went home. They did not have to go through customs, and no one suspected fellow workers of being involved in narcotics smuggling. Therefore, the risk of being discovered was minimal.

Within the recently constructed airport facilities at Arlanda there is an elevator, designed for personnel, which leads directly down to the exit gate. This elevator was installed so that airline personnel would not have to stand in line with passengers to get out. Personnel would also avoid customs that way.

When the narcotics scandal was unveiled, the elevator was closed.

Enlisted Members

Several of the ring members who were arrested yesterday have sent home packages containing narcotics from Bangkok. At least three packages have arrived at Arlanda by plane. But they have also sent packages home by boat from Thailand. Police know that six of these packages have not yet arrived in Sweden. They also know who the intended receivers are.

None of the arrested persons are SAS flight personnel. Those connected with the ring are primarily ground personnel.

A 28-year old man, an SAS employee, organized the drug smuggling enterprise. He also enlisted new members into the ring from among his fellow workers at Arlanda.

Narcotics police, meanwhile, believe that this 28-year old had a boss who organized the giant chain of couriers and illicit salesmen engaged in the smuggling.

Narcotics police figure that the investigation will not be concluded until fall. We will not know definitively the extent of the narcotics smuggling until that time.

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TURKEY

BRIEFS

GAZIANTEP HASHISH SEIZURE--Security forces raided houses in Magara village, in the Yavuzeli district of Gaziantep province. The raid netted hashish, arms and cartridges with a market value of approximately 8.2 million lira. During the raids, six mausers, 229 mauser cartridges, six guns, 100 cartridges and 1000 kilos of hashish packaged in 20 sacks were found in 20 separate houses. Following the operation, 17 people, including the village headman and the religious leader [Imam] were taken into custody. [Text] [Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 17 Jul 77 p 9]

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